



Newsletter

I recently received the following short story in an email from home. I love this person dearly and he loves reminding me that there is more to being green than just recycling. I hope you enjoy it as much as I did.

The "Green" Thing

In the line at the store, the cashier told an older woman that she should bring her own grocery bags because plastic bags weren't good for the environment.

The woman apologized to him and explained, "We didn't have the green thing back in my day." The clerk responded, "That's our problem today. Your generation did not care enough to save our environment."

He was right - - that generation didn't have the green thing in it's day.

Back then, they returned milk bottles, soda bottles and beer bottles to the store. The store sent them back to the plant to be washed and sterilized and refilled, so it could use the same bottles over and over. So they really were recycled.

But they didn't have the green thing back in their day.

They walked up stairs, because they didn't have an escalator in every store and office building. They walked to the grocery store and didn't climb into a 300-horsepower machine every time they had to go two blocks.

But the older woman was right. They didn't have the green thing in their day.

Back then, they washed the baby's diapers because they didn't have the throw-away kind. They dried clothes on a line, not in an energy gobbling machine burning up 220 volts -- wind and solar power really did dry the clothes. Kids got hand-me-down clothes from their brothers or sisters, not always brand-new clothing. But the old lady is right; they didn't have the green thing back in their day.

Back then, they had one TV, or radio, in the house -- not a TV in every room. And the TV had a small screen the size of a handkerchief (remember them???), not a screen the size of the state of Montana.

In the kitchen, they blended and stirred by hand because they didn't have electric machines to do everything for them.

When they packaged a fragile item to send in the mail, they used a wadded up old newspaper to cushion it, not Styrofoam or plastic bubble wrap.

Back then, they didn't fire up an engine and burn gasoline just to cut the lawn. They used a push mower that ran on human power. They exercised by working so they didn't need to go to a health club to run on treadmills that operate on electricity.

But the old lady's right; they didn't have the green thing back then.

They drank from a fountain when they were thirsty instead of using a cup or a plastic bottle every time they had a drink of water.

They refilled writing pens with ink instead of buying a new pen, and they replaced razor blades in a razor instead of throwing away the whole razor just because the blade got dull.

But they didn't have the green thing back then.

Back then, people took the streetcar or a bus and kids rode their bikes to school or walked instead of turning their moms into a 24-hour taxi service.

They had one electrical outlet in a room, not an entire bank of sockets to power a dozen appliances. And they didn't need a computerized gadget to receive a signal beamed from satellites 2,000 miles out in space in order to find the nearest pizza joint.

At the very end of the email it says . . .

"But isn't it sad the current generation laments how wasteful the old folks were just because they didn't have the green thing back then? Please forward this on to another selfish old person who needs a lesson in conservation from a smart-aleck young person."

P.s. To my Dad (Marshall), I get the message.

Love,

Kim



What's green in Brunswick County besides the golf courses????

What else but the Brunswick County Landfill.

When you think of a landfill probably the last thing that comes to mind is “environmentally friendly”. However the landfill in Brunswick County is much more than just a landfill. It’s true that there is a C&D landfill at the location. This is where construction and demolition debris, such as lumber and drywall, from within the county is buried. Having a C&D landfill in your county helps to keep the cost of building, renovating and expanding down. Keeping these costs down encourages economic growth within the county and that’s good news for tax payers like you and me. What a lot of people don’t realize is all the other activities that take place at the landfill. These various activities and programs help protect the environment and save valuable landfill space as well as preserve natural resources. Some of the programs even help residents with beautification projects by keeping their expenses down.

The Brunswick County Landfill is the home to many recycling/waste reduction programs. One program that has recently began to take off is the Swap Shop/Paint Exchange Building. This building is provided for citizens to place usable household items, like bookcases, dressers, lamps, tables and miscellaneous other household goods, on the shelves and floor space rather than throwing them away. The items are then available for others residents to take free of charge. The building also has shelving for paint. If you have left over, usable paint, you may place it in the building to be used by someone else. Programs like this keep good items from being disposed of and provides needed (sometimes just desired) items for others. It reduces the use of landfill space and extends the use of natural resources. In the same general area as the Swap Shop/Paint Exchange there is a space provided for computer and electronic recycling. This program is free to residents. Beside the computer recycling building we have a place where you may place old carpet and carpet padding. Although regular disposal fees do apply to the carpet recycling program, it is still very important to try and divert this material from the landfills. The carpet is picked up by a company in Wilmington and recycled into many other products. Next door to the carpet collection area is a bin for commingled household recycling. Further into the landfill there are several other waste reduction programs taking place. There is a designated area for the recycling of white goods (appliances) and scrap metal, an area to recycle tires and an area to recycle oyster shells. There is no charge for residents to take advantage of these programs and each program helps us reduce our waste stream while preserving natural resources.

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If you go a little further back into the landfill you will find an area that is piled high with branches and brush and right behind that pile are two really pretty piles of mulch. Residents may bring yard debris to the landfill and dispose of it at the reduced rate of \$22.50 per ton. All the yard debris is placed into the holding pile and held until a large quantity is collected and then Brunswick County has a company come in and grind the debris (they actually double grind it). After the pile is ground it is then sifted which creates two grades of mulch. There is the mulch row that is sifted and is very, very fine. This product is great to mix into your flower beds or gardens to enrich the soil. The other row is the heavier mulch which is better for placing on top of the flower beds or garden for decorative purposes, erosion prevention and moisture control. Both products are free to Brunswick County residents. The landfill employees will even load it on your truck for you. Mulch may be picked up at no charge to residents Monday through Friday from 8 am until 3 pm. The other activity that takes place in this area is LCID recycling. LCID is material such as brick, asphalt, concrete and rock. This material is collected and then ground into a finer product that has a wide variety of uses such as in drainage ditches, driveways and for erosion control. The material is brought in by residents and contractors doing work in Brunswick County. They are charged a reduced rate of \$7.00 per ton for disposal. After the material is ground it may be purchased by residents and contractors at a rate below market value. This rate does vary depending on the cost of grinding.



All in all it’s pretty safe to say that the Brunswick County Landfill is an “environmentally friendly” operation and is always looking for ways to expand the recycling programs to reduce the overall waste stream.

(I wouldn’t be surprised to see a shingle recycling program begin in the very near future)

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